

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of producing human chondrocytes, wherein said method comprises:~~

~~co-culturing human chondrocytes together with perichondrium, wherein said chondrocytes are obtained from a human cartilage having said perichondrium, and wherein no non-human animal feeder cells are present in the culture~~

A method to proliferate human chondrocytes comprising the method steps of:

- 1) a step of collecting human cartilage having perichondrium;
- 2) a step of treating the cartilage having perichondrium with an enzyme; and
- 3) a step of culturing the treated cartilage having perichondrium obtained in step 2),

wherein the perichondrium of the cartilage having perichondrium of step 1) is combined with the culture of step 3), and wherein no non-human animal feeder cells are present in step 3) .

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cartilage is auricular cartilage.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
seeding the cultured chondrocytes in a monolayer or multilayer at least once; and
culturing the chondrocytes until a chondrocyte mass forms.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:
seeding the cultured chondrocytes in a monolayer or multilayer at least once; and
culturing the chondrocytes until a chondrocyte mass forms.

5-6. (Cancelled)